

Town of Wayland
Climate Action Mobilization Plan (CAMP)
Summary of Preliminary Working Draft
December 2021

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Town of Wayland

Climate Action Mobilization Plan – Preliminary Working Draft Summary

Preface

At Spring 2021 Town Meeting, the Town of Wayland voted a resolution to declare a climate emergency and a resolution to request that the Board of Selectmen develop a Climate Action Mobilization Plan (CAMP) to achieve a minimum 50% reduction in the Town's aggregate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 with an ambition of a higher 75% reduction.

At the direction of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator, the Energy and Climate Committee (E&C), with input from several Town residents, has developed this first working draft of the CAMP. The E&CC reviewed numerous municipal climate plans, both from Massachusetts and other states, in developing this first draft. You can see these other climate plans via [THIS LINK](#).

This is our first rough draft, and we encourage feedback and comments from everyone in town. We will be working to develop a robust community engagement effort this winter to garner input, engage a wide and diverse set of town residents, engage municipal employees, and speak with local businesses.

A few words about the underlying principles and the plan organization. This draft proposes four categories of climate actions, actions for engaging the community in implementation, and an equity lens for viewing climate change and mobilization:

- Buildings
- Clean Energy Supply
- Transportation – Getting Around
- Adaptation, Resilience, and Nature-Based Actions
- Engagement
- Equity Lens

In each category, we identify recommended actions, describe the work to be done, identify likely implementers, discuss the equity impacts of the action, and provide a qualitative assessment of the likely greenhouse gas emission reductions. The committee is currently working to quantify Wayland's 1990 baseline GHG emissions level from which the Town has committed to achieve a minimum 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 with an ambition of a higher 75% reduction. We will include this baseline in subsequent drafts along with additional information on past energy and climate actions taken by Wayland. In identifying possible actions, E&CC members prioritized actions that:

- Are feasible by 2030.
- Substantially reduce GHG emissions OR mobilize/engage a substantial number of residents or local business to take climate actions OR supports resiliency/adaptation.

We also accept that climate change is socially unjust, and that climate action and activism have social justice implications. We therefore strive to make our climate mobilization:

- address the patterns of harm and oppression that have created and continue to create systemic inequality and underrepresentation for people inside local communities and beyond.
- prevent the burden of climate change and of climate action from falling on those who are less privileged, who cannot bear it, and who are not responsible.
- invite and grow the ability of disadvantaged communities in our town to also advise the mobilization and make changes for a better climate.
- support a just transition to a green economy.

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Buildings Actions

1. Town shall mandate by 2024 that all new and substantial rehabilitations of existing municipal buildings use no fossil fuels, decarbonize, and incorporate climate sensitive design.
2. Town shall implement decarbonization strategies for all existing municipal buildings taking advantage of heating/cooling system replacements and other opportunities. By 2030 25% of buildings have implemented such strategies; by 2050 100% of buildings are decarbonized and no longer use onsite fossil fuel.
3. Decarbonize existing non municipal buildings - single family homes, multi-family properties, houses of worship, other non-profits, and commercial buildings. Beginning immediately, strongly encourage and support all new or replacement non-window AC equipment to be heat pump instead, sized whenever possible to achieve at least 75% non-fossil heating. And at the same time, to encourage thermal efficiency upgrades. By 2030, 50% of non-municipal buildings complete energy audits/thermal upgrades and at least 25% use heat pumps, and 100% of building owners take such actions by 2050.
4. Adopt decarbonization building standards and update the Town's zoning bylaws for new commercial and residential construction to eliminate site energy fossil fuel use and encourage onsite solar production, battery storage, and electric vehicle charging.
5. Advocate at the state level for significant renewable energy, decarbonization, and building energy efficiency standards and funding to support municipalities and residents in taking decarbonization efforts and achieve environmental justice goals.

Clean Energy Supply Actions

1. Boost Town of Wayland purchases of electricity or credits generated from renewable power projects to the equivalent of 100% of municipal load by 2030.
2. Encourage private Wayland ratepayers to purchase electricity or credits generated from renewable power projects. Implement Community Choice Aggregation by 2023.
3. Encourage private Wayland ratepayers to purchase community solar credits. Special outreach to renters, LMI residents, houses of worship, non-profit entities.
4. Boost climate resiliency by including battery storage to solar projects serving critical municipal facilities and businesses.
5. Advocate a faster ramp-up of statewide utility renewable power purchase mandates.

Transportation Actions

1. Accelerate adoption of private electric vehicles.
2. Electrify municipal and school fleets by 2030.
3. Develop a town sustainable transportation plan with Complete Streets Plan including multimodal connectivity by 2023.
4. Improve alternatives to driving via bicycling, walking paths and sidewalks and connections to public transportation by 2030.
5. Advocate for sustainable transportation legislation and regulatory changes to lower to increase EV adoption and benefit the electric grid.
6. Design and upgrade town transportation infrastructure for resistance to flooding, storms, and extreme weather by 2030.

Adaptation, Resilience, and Nature-Based Actions

Most proposed actions in this Climate Action Plan focus on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the primary cause of climate change. Unfortunately, because so many GHGs have already been pumped into the atmosphere, the reality that reducing emission rates will not happen overnight, and the long (centuries) lifetime of GHGs in the atmosphere, the effects of climate change both globally and right here in Wayland will continue to worsen for years. In the northeast US the primary effects will be increased arrival of precipitation in strong storms, accompanying drought between those stormy periods, and ecological disruption because of those changed weather patterns as well as generally warmer conditions. The record flooding of 2010 and the record snowfall of 2014 are examples of the kind of effects climate change can have on Wayland. Adaptation measures aim to reduce the local effects of climate change, while resilience actions help to live with those effects when they can't be prevented. Most adaptation and resilience actions are nature based.

Nature based actions have three basic goals. Some, like planting trees around a house, save energy. But some, like restoring more natural flow to the Sudbury River, aim to directly reduce the flooding damage which will be exacerbated by climate change. Still others aim to maintain and enhance the carbon sequestration function of soils, which varies by landscape type, and generally goes along with maintenance of a healthier and more diverse ecosystem. The proposed actions include removing river obstructions, encouraging tree preservation especially around buildings, discouraging lawns which are the worst landscape type for both carbon sequestration and ecosystem health, and replacing them with native landscaping. Other actions propose enhanced stormwater treatment to reduce the effects of flooding and drought, more recycling and composting, and more progressive water rates. Many of these actions will have an immediate positive effect directly on Wayland.

Many of these actions require individual action on a mass scale, and a change in cultural norms. As a prerequisite to accomplishing such change, Wayland should band together with other towns to lobby the state to enable tax incentives to motivate the desired behavior. For example, a Climate Credit Score could be established to reward homeowners for maintenance of large trees around a house and minimization of lawn areas. A dialogue with Wayland’s representatives to the legislature for such legislation should begin immediately.

Engagement and Mobilization Actions/Campaigns (“MOB”) Actions

All of the following actions/campaigns satisfy the following ambitious **criteria**, which are explained in the first three actions:

1. Mobilize neighbors to do all the other actions by inviting everyone in from where they are at.
2. Provide a constant impetus to *keep* acting and “moving up the climate action ladder” by changing social norms and normalizing climate action.
3. Create community, which is the cornerstone of resilience.

Many of our actions do not allow for easy, if any quantitative **measurement or tracking**. Instead, we are taking extra care to provide other rationales, mainly in the first five actions/campaigns (for some of the other actions we suggest some ways of measuring success). The same holds for **timetables and implementers**: we want engagement to be ongoing, broad, and deep, and as such most campaigns are indefinite and require widespread implementation. But we suggest some ideas for deadlines and implementers for some of the actions.

Assuming that many if not most of the Actions in the other categories will need an engagement/outreach component, we have formulated some of our “Actions” in a general sense, so they can be applied to any other Action.

Social equity is addressed explicitly in the EQUITY LENS segment below. It is touched upon in most of the descriptions of other campaigns and actions as *underlined and italicized*.

Bringing an Equity Lens to Proposed Actions

1. *Action/org: INDEPENDENT BODY OVERSEEING EQUITY: An independent body to advise all other groups in the Mobilization on the equity, inclusion and diversity and social justice implications of their actions.*
 - **Key Implementers** - Human Rights, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee as lead, with partners

- **Description** - The organizers, decision makers and facilitators of the Climate Mobilization must be aware of the social injustice of climate change *and* of the social justice implications of climate action and activism itself. Only then will our climate mobilization:
 - address the patterns of harm and oppression that have created and continue to create systemic inequality and underrepresentation for people and communities inside Wayland, and beyond.
 - prevent the burden of climate change *and* of climate action falling on those who are less privileged, who cannot bear it, and who are not responsible.
 - invite and *grow the ability* of disadvantaged communities in our Town to also make changes for a better climate.
 - learn from other backgrounds and points of view and celebrate diversity as a source of strength.
 - support a just transition to a green economy.

With this in mind we propose

- A close collaboration with the Human Rights, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, or the creation of a special body, that will examine all other actions (from energy to housing to economy to engagement) through the DEI and EJ lens, and that will be available for questions from all organizers, decision makers and facilitators of the Climate Mobilization.

2. *Action: JUST TRANSITION TO GREEN ECONOMY: Ensure a just economic transition of jobs*

- **Key Implementers** - BoS, Wayland Business Association (?)
- **Description** -
 - Professional educational workshops for contractors and other developers in low emission/higher efficiency services, e.g., landscaping, and construction.
 - Find ways to financially help contractors and businesses change over to low/no emissions equipment and methods.
 - Climate focused career development at high school level and in adult education.
 - Support state, regional, and local-level programs and policies that ensure a just transition for workers and uplift a green economy for all people.